

CLAIMS:

1. A down-the-hole drill assembly characterized in that exhaust passages are provided from the upper and lower chambers past the inner end of a bit and through the body of the bit to exit through the bit face.
2. A drill assembly as claimed in claim 1 characterized in that the exhaust passages exit via at least one vent extending through the bit body from the bit face.
3. A drill assembly as claimed in claim 1 characterized in that the bit has openings extending transversely through the wall of the bit into a blind bore extending from the bit face.
4. A drill assembly as claimed in claim 3 characterized in that a flushing air orifice extends through the closed inner end of the bit.
5. A drill bit characterized in that it is for the down-the-hole drill assembly as defined in claim 1.

DATED THIS DAY OF MARCH 2004

FOR THE APPLICANT